

CMS Program Integrity Recommendation

Medicaid Eligibility Verifications

Recommendation

For states receiving and distributing Federal funds, it is recommended that CMS issue guidance requiring states to consistently utilize current employment and income data for Medicaid and CHIP eligibility determinations upfront in the states' verification processes.

Background

Current employment and income data is available through commercial wage service providers. This data can be accessed for use by states directly and/or through the CMS Federal Data Services Hub, and compliments existing government wage data resources.

By utilizing current employment and income data for every eligibility determination, CMS and state Medicaid agencies can be confident that they are consistently making accurate decisions based on the most up-to-date information available.

This recommendation aligns with CMS's Medicaid Program Integrity Strategy, "to work with States to enhance data sharing and collaboration".

Today, use of this data varies widely by state.

Using secured, trusted and automated commercially available wage data enables states to quickly, efficiently and more accurately determine the right benefits for the right person at the right time.